

NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Water Resources



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State Senator to Discuss Idaho's Promising Future in Wind Power

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2005 will go down as a turning point for wind power development in Idaho. Two commercial wind farms will have come on line by the end of the year. The 10.5-megawatt Fossil Gulch wind farm near Hagerman started generating power last winter, and the 64.5-megawatt Wolverine Creek wind farm east of Idaho Falls is scheduled to begin operating next month. And many more projects are planned across Southern Idaho.

Senator Brent Hill (R), Rexburg, Chairman of the Legislature's Energy, Environment and Technology Interim Committee, will give a legislative perspective on wind power development in a lunchtime speech during a wind power development workshop later this week in Pocatello.

"Idaho can potentially produce 18,000 megawatts of wind power generated electricity. Right now we are generating about 11 megawatts," Senator Hill said. "Our state has a great opportunity to become a real player in wind power development."

18,000 megawatts of wind-generated power is more than double the amount electricity currently used in Idaho.

Senator Hill's Speech:

When: Thursday, December 1, 2005

Where: Red Lion Hotel, 1555 Pocatello Creek Road, Pocatello

Time: 12:30 p.m.

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Note to television media: The Idaho Energy Division will make DVDs available of video footage of Idaho's first three commercial wind farms. They are: the Fossil Gulch wind farm near Hagerman, the Lewandowski wind farm near Mountain Home, and the Wolverine Creek wind farm currently under construction east of Idaho Falls.

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